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PENNSYLVANIA DEFENSE COUNCIL NEWS

ISSUED BY THE STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

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Vol. 3, No. 9

SCD Marshals Forces for GI Canvass

STARTS JUNE 14

**Governor Martin
Proclaims July 7th as
Military Ballot Day**

Plans for assuring Pennsylvania's estimated 750,000 eligible servicefolk a voice in the November presidential election are well advanced under the Commonwealth's absentee voting plan, widely heralded as the most liberal in the nation.

The law approving the plan was enacted during a recent special 5-day legislative session, one of the shortest and most harmonious in the state's history, when \$750,000 was appropriated to cover absentee balloting costs.

Stressing importance of keeping military information secure from the enemy and the stiff penalties for election frauds, the law designated the State Council of Defense and any other volunteer groups to spearhead the date-gathering campaign which will continue from June 14 to July 7.

Some 200,000 volunteers, who will work in teams of two wherever possible, will be selected to make the canvass and report on July 7—"Military Ballot Day"—when election officials will sit in the state's 8,195 voting precincts to receive names and addresses of absentee Pennsylvanians.

Men and women born since Nov. 8, 1923, now serving in the army, navy, marine or merchant marine, and members engaged with the Red Cross, Committee of Friends and USO groups, will receive ballots without requesting them and regardless of whether they were registered to vote.

Upon receipt of ballots, a serviceman desiring to exercise his franchise in the Nov. 7 election will check his voting choices in the presence of a superior officer, affirm his constitutional right to vote and return the ballot in a pre-addressed franked envelope.

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY BALLOT INFORMATION

City Borough or Township	Ward	District	County
NAME: Last	First	Middle	
Rank or Grade	Serial No.	Date of Birth:	Age
MILITARY ADDRESS:	Including organization or unit and A. P. O. No. (if any)		
Additional line for military address			
HOME ADDRESS:	No.	Street, or R. F. D.	City or Borough
Length of time citizen of U. S. (Must be at least 1 Mo.)			
Length of time resident of Voting District (Must be at least 2 Mos.)			
Length of time resident of Penna. { Must be at least 6 Mos. if previously a citizen of Pa. or native-born—otherwise 1 year. }			
SOURCE OF INFORMATION:		CANVASSER'S CERTIFICATION:	
		The foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.	
Name and relationship		Signature of Canvasser	
Address		Signature of Canvasser	
Date		Organization which Canvasser Represents (over)	

Gas Available For Canvassers

In answer to many inquiries, Walter C. Young, Acting Director of the Harrisburg OPA District, appeared before the May 23 meeting of County Chairmen and outlined the procedure to be followed to secure extra gasoline rations for volunteers engaged in the absentee voter canvass.

Young also furnished the State Council of Defense with a copy of a memorandum sent to all War Price & Rationing Boards in his 10-county area. It follows:

"The Office of Civilian Defense through the State Council of Defense has assumed the responsibility for directing the canvass of homes of soldiers and others in the service here and abroad to obtain an accurate listing of such individuals so they may vote under the new State law. The canvass will be performed by volunteers, most of whom are at present associated with Civilian

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Questions and Answers

Among the questions and answers recorded at the meeting of County Chairmen to complete plans for the absentee voter canvass, were the following:

Q. Is it permissible to use the Republican and Democratic Committee organizations to make the canvass?

A. (By Dr. Hutchison) This was suggested to the Legislature but they decided against it and voted to delegate to Civilian Defense, a non-partisan organization, the responsibility of doing this job. In view of the fact that such a move might involve Civilian Defense in politics, we cannot use political organizations. That is one thing that is definitely out, both by legislative enactment and by our desire to keep clear of political entanglements. Our responsibility is to keep away from political connections and there

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Little Decline In SCD Ranks

Despite reports to the contrary, there has been little or no noticeable let-down in Civilian Defense activities throughout the State.

At least the latest recapitulation of the number of volunteers engaged in civilian war services shows no marked decline, the grand total continuing to be over the 900,000 mark—904,249 to be exact.

Salvage leads the list with 465,899 volunteers, followed by Victory Gardens with 139,527 and Red Cross with 101,360.

Records establish the fact that the enrollment of Defense volunteers has been quite stable during the past four or five months. As many have been drafted, others have come forward to fill their places.

NEW LEADERS NAMED

Dale Grant is the new chairman of the Jefferson county Civilian Defense Council, and Harry T. Coleman heads the salvage committee.

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MT. LEBANON TRADING POST GROWING FAST

Mt. Lebanon Council of Defense is operating a Trading Post, a Swap Center deluxe, that is attracting widespread attention. Mrs. William H. Pollock is director of the project which has flourished to such an extent that it is outgrowing present quarters.

Mrs. Conway Zirkle, Chairman of the Consumer Interests Committee, recently visited the Trading Post and found it adequately manned by faithful Civilian Defense volunteers. The Post had a fine assortment of boy's and men's suits, girl's and women's dresses and coats, shoes, rubbers, some linens, electrical equipment, etc. It is bringing back into circulation usable consumer goods that are no longer available in large supply.

Mrs. Zirkle urges that other Councils give immediate consideration to this type of activity that has been recommended repeatedly by her committee.

ADVISE USE OF CHURCH BELLS TO HERALD D-DAY

Local Defense Councils have been advised to ring church bells instead of air raid sirens to herald the allied invasion of Europe.

Col. Lynn G. Adams, the State Defense Council's Protective Council Commander, in responding to numerous requests for local councils to sound sirens, said the use of bells would avoid public confusion.

SCD MARSHALS . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Gov. Edward Martin described the program as an "excellent morale builder" both at home and on the fighting front, and the canvassers were informed by Dr. Ralph C. Hutchison, the State Council's executive director, that this is their opportunity, as authorized by the U. S. Government, "to urge on all with whom you talk, the importance of security of war information."

The volunteers will have specific instructions to refuse any information on location or destination of servicemen, and that they are subject to a maximum \$1,000 fine or imprisonment from one month to two years, or both, for willingly returning false information or for permitting use of the information for any purpose other than that authorized by the act. They also have been ordered by the Defense Council to participate in no political activity, propaganda or conversation while collecting the information.

Final plans for the canvass were completed at a recent meeting at the state capitol at which Dr. Hutchison reviewed the entire program and invited suggestions from the delegation which represented all but two of the state's counties.

Dr. Hutchison said each county Defense Council chairman is responsible for the canvass in his district, and warned that the work must not be confused with the Fifth War Loan Drive. However, he pointed out, canvassers who also are selling war loan bonds and who are covering the same territory in both capacities are authorized to combine the two functions in the same visit.

Gov. Martin emphasized the importance of the drive and expressed the opinion that "all patriotic men and women will assist in this undertaking." He stressed the necessity of obtaining all names of eligible absentee voters.

Meanwhile, the Defense Council has named Arthur L. Cotton, Allegheny County, a field representative for the State Council, as coordinator for the canvass.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

The Philadelphia Defense Council is seeking volunteers who are urgently needed by Philadelphia hospitals and war relief agencies for knitting and sewing.

A CHALLENGE!

Gov. Martin, in addressing the May 23 conference of Defense Council Chairmen, said in part:

"Our boys and girls are fighting for the right of ballot. The Legislature, in its wisdom, tried to give them the most liberal opportunity to vote of any state in the union. The Legislature selected Civilian Defense to gather the list of those in the service so that the proper officials could send them a ballot.

"I sincerely hope that Military Ballot Day will be one of the great days in the history of Pennsylvania.

"I am hoping that all patriotic men and women will assist in this undertaking. Every city street, every small town street, every through highway, every little road out into the rural sections should be canvassed thoroughly so that we will have a complete list of every man and woman in the armed services.

THIS IS THE BIGGEST TASK EVER GIVEN TO A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS. BUT YOU CAN DO THE JOB.

"I can't impress upon you too thoroughly the importance of getting all the names. It's a great morale builder. "Stars and Stripes," the Army publication, recently carried a Page 1 story on our military canvass. It points out that the Pennsylvania plan is the best of them all. They know that the people of Pennsylvania are back of them.

SPEAKS AT TOWANDA

Mrs. E. A. VanValkenburg, director of the SCD Citizens Service Corps, recently addressed a meeting of the Bradford County Women's Auxiliary of Civilian Defense at Towanda. Mrs. Romeyn F. Culver, chairman of the Auxiliary, presided.

Mrs. VanValkenburg pointed out that in the early days of the war the initial civilian defense emphasis was on the protective phase, but now it is directed in the main on the civilian war services. She detailed SCD's responsibility in the absentee voter canvass to be conducted throughout the State starting June 14.

Dr. Mack Urges Victory Garden Food Kitchens

Pointing out that all evidence indicate that Pennsylvania will have a greater than usual supply of fruits and vegetables this season, Dr. Warren B. Mack, Executive Secretary of the Advisory Victory Garden Committee, stresses that foremost emphasis must be placed on the conservation of food.

"All of these products are needed for good nutrition," Dr. Mack declared, "and should, therefore, be conserved to the utmost. By so doing, we as a state may be able to accomplish that which seemed practically impossible some time ago—that is, actually improving the nutrition of our population while the war is going on."

The Victory Garden Food Conservation Kitchens will have the cooperation both of the State office of the War Food Administration, of which John F. Conaboy has charge, and of the Department of Public Instruction through vocational schools.

H. C. Fetterolf, Chief of Agricultural Education, Department of Public Instruction, who is in charge of war food production training in this state, has stated his intention of taking an active part in the training and supervision of adults in proper food preservation through teachers of vocational agriculture. Dr. A. Pauline Sanders, recently appointed Chief in Home Economics Education, also will take an energetic part in this program.

It is hoped that Victory canners will utilize all surpluses of fruits and vegetables, not only from their own gardens but also from commercial gardens and orchards of the state.

Organize Kitchens

Mrs. Ed. J. Garra, Eastern Regional Food Conservation Chairman, strongly urges more cooperation in organizing Conservation Kitchens. "Taking canned goods off the ration list has given many people the impression that 'it's all over but the shouting' and this attitude may hinder the food conservation program," Mrs. Garra warns. "Nothing is further from the truth and the Federal government never meant to give that impression. Sensible people will help clear the decks now while canned goods is point-free."

Making State-Wide Survey

The Advisory Committee on Consumer Interests, headed by Mrs. Conway Zirkle, is conducting a State-wide survey to find out:

(1) Adequacy of electric refrigeration repair service.

(2) Availability of infants' and childrens' wear shoes.

Consumer representatives on all Defense Councils have been asked to conduct a check to determine whether these facilities are adequate. If situations are found bad in certain areas steps will be taken to alleviate them immediately.

This job is being done by the Consumer Committee for the Office of Civilian Requirements, War Production Board, and the information gathered will help in the transition from war to peacetime economy. County Consumer Committees are fast coming into their own as "listening posts" and are expected to play an important role in postwar programs.

Pre-Induction Rallies Held

Pre-induction meetings were held during May in State College, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Gettysburg, Johnstown, Lewistown, Huntingdon and York. Mrs. Helen M. Spofford, Director of Special Activities, State Council of Defense reports.

In Montgomery County "Draft Aid Centers" are operating in Pottstown, Abington and Norristown. In Harrisburg the attendance at the May meeting exceeded expectations and Col. R. M. Mitchell delivered an inspiring address.

The change in draft quotas has affected many counties and, for this reason, a simple program that applies to a large or a small group is proving most satisfactory.

OUTLINE PLANS FOR SCRAP COLLECTION FROM FARMS

Plans for a concerted drive to collect scrap on Pennsylvania farms this summer, were adopted at a recent meeting of the State Defense Council's Salvage Committee.

Colley S. Baker, executive secretary, outlined the program to comb farms of every bit of scrap during the summer months which is to be followed with an intensive campaign during the Fall to salvage wastepaper, tin cans and other needed materials.

GAS AVAILABLE

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Defense, from June 14 to July 7. The canvass will require intensive activity by the volunteers for a period of at least three weeks. The question has been raised about the eligibility of these volunteers for additional rations of gasoline to carry on this assignment.

"Under Section 1394.7551, paragraph A-26, persons performing volunteer work regularly which contributes to the public welfare or war effort may obtain supplemental rations of gasoline by applying to the proper board on Form R-535. This regulation, in my opinion, would apply to volunteers who participate in the soldiers vote canvass in Pennsylvania. My interpretation is based on Annotation .02, Paragraph A-26 of Section 1394.7751 of Ration Order 5-C, which states that regularly is construed to be constantly, usually or habitually. Therefore volunteer work performed by canvassers to obtain the names and addresses of members of the armed forces would be occupational within the meaning of Paragraph A-26 if the work is performed constantly during a period of three weeks to a month.

"The mileage permitted such volunteer workers will be limited to the "B" ceiling of 325 miles per month. An "A" ration holder who has no supplemental rations will be eligible for a maximum of 325 miles per month, while a person already receiving the "B" ceiling for occupational purposes in the non-preferred category will not be eligible for additional mileage. An applicant employed in a job specified as a preferred occupation will be eligible for a maximum of 325 miles monthly to perform the canvass.

"All volunteers applying for supplemental rations for the canvass must satisfy the requirements of Section 1394.7704 in respect to a full ride sharing club or must show that alternative means of transportation are either non-existent or inadequate. If the latter is true, the applicant must also show he is carrying as many canvassers as possible."

TO SERVE IN HOSPITALS

A committee has been appointed by the Allegheny County Council of Defense to recruit men for volunteer service in Pittsburgh hospitals.

An initial class of 26 men were trained at Shadyside Hospital and graduated last week, with appropriate exercises.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from Page 1)

are severe penalties for any infractions of regulations. Men and women of political organizations are urged to help us as individual members of Civilian Defense or other non-partisan or non-political organizations

Q. What if a person is reported too young to vote?

A. Anyone not born prior to November 8, 1923 should not be registered.

Q. Who is to determine the eligibility of a voter?

A. If there is any question in this regard, the canvasser should fill out the card and have it turned over to an election board whose responsibility it is to decide on eligibility. Our job is to hand in the names.

Q. Are these cards to be used only this Fall or for the primary next Spring, too?

A. Only for this Fall's election.

Q. What if the canvasser is unable to get all the information required for the card?

A. Canvassers should find someone who does know or leave the card for someone else to fill it out properly.

Q. Does the time in military service count in determining eligibility of a voter?

A. Yes.

Q. If a man enters the service and his family moves to some other county, how do we determine his voting residence?

A. This doesn't change his residence. He can have only one voting residence.

Q. Where a man is married and living with his parents and upon entering the service his wife goes home to live with her parents. Won't there be a duplication if the man's wife gives information and his parents register their son in another county, for instance.

A. We shouldn't be concerned so much about duplication. The cards will be thoroughly screened by election boards.

Q. What happens to a soldier who enters the service after Military Ballot Day?

A. His family can go to the election board and ask that a ballot be sent him any time even up to the day of election.

Q. What happens if a man entered the service and has no one to report him at his original residence?

A. His family will no doubt report him where ever they are. There are going to be cases, however, where soldiers will lose their vote.

Cite Papers For Aiding Salvage

For outstanding activity in behalf of Pennsylvania's salvage campaigns, 19 newspapers received citations from the Advisory Committee on Salvage of the State Council of Defense, in a recent ceremony held in the House of Representatives.

Citations were presented by Chairman Warren B. Roberts and after the awards Governor Martin addressed the meeting. The papers honored include:

Harrisburg Evening News and Patriot, Harrisburg Telegraph, Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia Inquirer and Record, Pottsville Republican, McKeesport Daily News, Altoona Mirror, Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader, Sharon Herald, Reading Eagle and Times, Lebanon News-Times, Philadelphia Daily News, Lock Haven Express, Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., Altoona Tribune and Turtle Creek Independent.

Text of the citation follows:

"Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Advisory Committee on Salvage of the State Council of Defense—In acknowledgment of meritorious services rendered in behalf of the Pennsylvania Salvage Program, this citation is awarded to Given under my hand this 23rd day of May, 1944.

(Signed) Warren R. Roberts
Chairman

Colley S. Baker
Executive Secretary."

WMC CIVILIAN DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP DEFINED

Instructions defining the relationship of the War Manpower Commission and the Office of Civilian Defense and indicating the ways this federal agency may work with state and local defense councils in carrying out its responsibilities for assisting in securing adequate community facilities and services, were issued recently by the WMC.

The War Manpower Commission Bulletin states in part:

"The Office of Civilian Defense is authorized by executive order to work with state and local defense councils in mobilizing community resources for the alleviation of community problems arising from the war. The defense council through its war services branch provides an official channel for coordination of the activities of federal, state and local agencies and sponsors community organization for the solution of community war problems."

Defense Council Warns Against Use of Fireworks

Pennsylvanians have been warned by the State Council of Defense that an act of legislature and Third Service Command regulations forbid the sale and use of fireworks for Independence Day celebrations.

Col. Henry A. Reninger, acting director of the Third Civilian Defense Region, in a letter to Dr. Ralph C. Hutchison, the State Council's executive director, said:

"Current policy of the Eastern Defense Command prohibits the use of any form of aerial pyrotechnics and detonating material of any kind, but permits the display of ground fire works such as set pieces, subject to limitation that no use of critical war materials is involved."

Charles E. Clark, the council's Chief Fire Warden, pointed out that the act permits use of toy pistols, toy cannons or toy guns in which paper caps containing 2,500 grains or less of explosive compounds are used.

Municipalities are allowed to give fire works displays, providing they are handled by a competent operator and have local government approval. Permits must be obtained at least 15 days before the display is to be given.

Violators are subject to a fine or jail sentence, or both.

BOARD MEMBERS CHOSEN

Two new board members—Mrs. William F. Cutten and Mrs. W. W. Lutz—have been named to the Luzerne County Civilian Defense volunteer office.

Instructions To Canvassers

The 200,000 volunteers chosen to participate in the soldier vote canvass from June 14 to July 7, were advised by Dr. Ralph C. Hutchison, executive director of the State Council of Defense, to follow these 17 points:

1. Canvass only the area assigned to you.

2. Show your credentials upon admission to a home.

3. Fill out the form yourself after getting answers to the necessary questions from an adult member of the family where possible.

4. Print, rather than write, the answers.

5. Ask no questions and obtain no information not required by this form.

6. Participate in no political activity, propaganda or conversation while collecting the required information.

7. Omit no residence or names within your assigned area.

8. Leave change of address form at the residence of each absentee voter recorded.

9. Mail all forms to local chairman at the close of each day's canvass.

10. In the interests of military security, keep no copy of information, no list of voters names and addresses and in no case give information obtained on the forms to any person other than the local or County Chairman of the organization represented, or in special cases, to the County Board of Elections.

11. Report all instances where information is not attainable, to local chairmen.

12. Record information relating to all persons serving with the army, navy, merchant marine, Red Cross, Society of Friends, Women's Auxiliary Service Pilots, and United Service Organizations which include the International Committee of Y.M.C.A., National Board of Y.W.C.A., National Catholic Community Service, Salvation Army, National Jewish Welfare Board, National Travelers Aid Association and USO camps and shows.

13. Remember that time served in military service is included in all residence requirements.

14. Do not record information of persons who do not meet qualifications of age, citizenship and residence.

15. Make every effort to obtain the individual's serial number.

16. Remember the soldier vote law provides a fine or jail sentence, or both, for willingly permitting or inserting false information.

17. This canvass is your opportunity, as authorized by the U. S. government, to urge on all with whom you talk, the importance of the security of war information. Request those whom you interview to reveal to you or to anyone else no information which they have regarding location or destination of their relatives or friends in military service, or concerning the nature, transportation or whereabouts of military equipment, or other information which might be of value to the enemy.

VOLUNTEERS PLEDGED FOR ABSENTEE CANVASS

Mrs. Worthington Scranton, War Services Commander, has pledged the cooperation of that group's 903,000 volunteers in the forthcoming absentee vote canvass.

"The group is ready and willing to tackle the job," said Mrs. Scranton. She added that it will be the duty of Block Leaders to augment this force with workers from salvage, victory garden, nutrition, consumer interest and other war service branches.

CONSUMERS EXPAND

The Delaware County Consumer Committee, under leadership of Mrs. Josephine Hopwood, has agreed to take over the fat salvage program in that district.

BLOCK LEADERS ACTIVE

Allegheny County Block Leaders have been showing progress in their activities, Mrs. Samuel A. Schreiner, county chief, reported. The group has secured 341 Nurses' Aides; 1,775 persons for Home Nursing classes; 50 Cadet Nurses; 69 inactive nurses; and 1,826 women for nutrition classes.

MINUTEMEN START DRILLS

Adams County Minutemen, now boasting 60 members, have started weekly drills in preparation for numerous public appearances this summer. Recruits are being sought for 35 vacancies left by recent military inductions.

31,164 Service Awards Given SCD Volunteers

Awards for volunteer service have been made to a grand total of 31,164 members of the United States Citizens Service Corps of Councils of Defense throughout Pennsylvania, Mrs. E. A. VanValkenburg, State Chief of the Corps, announces.

At a recent ceremony in City Hall, Philadelphia, awards were given 610 members of that city's corps for volunteer service ranging from 500 to 5000 hours. Mrs. Francis R. Strawbridge, Chief of the Philadelphia Corps, officiated at the ceremony, assisted by Mrs. Francis I. Fasy, president of the Alliance of Catholic Women, and Mrs. Walter Willard, of the Philomusian Club.

Mrs. Strawbridge announces that her Citizens Service Corps now has a membership of 8495.

HARRISBURG DISASTER TEST NEAR PERFECT

In a recent "Disaster Test," the first complete mobilization of Harrisburg's Emergency Medical Service of Civilian Defense, was adjudged "just about perfect" by a board of judges composed of three physicians of the city.

Six stations, located at firehouses, were manned by casualty groups who were called upon to treat supposedly injured persons. Doctors, nurses, nurses' aides and casualty groups were called to treat imaginary victims in all parts of the city.

During the drill doctors and nurses became familiar with medical equipment allocated to the city by the Federal government.

GIVEN DISTRICT POST

W. Charles Gallagher, Wilkes-Barre, has been appointed District 12 director of the Aircraft Warning Service. He succeeds Michael M. Markowitz who recently became National Field Secretary for the American Legion.

COMMUNITY AIDES

The Lower Merion Defense Council has organized a Community Aides group to disseminate information of community interest and importance to every household in its district. The group, headed by Mrs. Theodore A. Phillips, will distribute material assembled in the county CD office.